REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 6-9, 11-16, and 19-25 are pending. Claims 1, 2, 8, 9, 12, 14, and 16 are amended. Claims 3-5, 10, 17, and 18 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 20-25 have been added. Support for the claim amendments and new claims can be found in the specification at least at paragraphs [1015], [1024], and [1025].

Claims 1, 2, 6, 9, and 16 are Allowable

The Office has rejected claims 1- 4, 6, 9, 10, and 16 – 18, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Applicants' alleged Admitted Prior Art ("AAPA"), e.g., paragraph [1035], in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0231206 ("Armstrong"). Claims 7, 8, 11-15, and 19 were rejected over AAPA. Claims 3, 4, 10, 17 and 18 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants respectfully traverse the remaining rejections.

The cited portions of the above-cited references do not disclose or suggest the specific combination of claim 1. For example, the cited portions of the above-cited references, separately or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest that a status of an upper-layer communication indicator indicates an Open Systems Interconnection (OSI) layer 4 or above communication status, as in claim 1.

In contrast to claim 1, paragraph [1035] of Applicants' specification discloses that higher-level communications are often terminated internally to the transceiver, without indicating to the end-user if the communications were successful or not. In such systems, determining communications status may require opening a web browser on a connected computer, logging in to the transceiver, and viewing communication status information via a graphical user interface (GUI). The indicator is not displayed at the transceiver, but through a GUI of the connected computer. Further, paragraph [1035] does not disclose or suggest that a status of an upper-layer communication indicator indicates an Open Systems Interconnection (OSI) layer 4 or above communication status, as in claim 1.

In further contrast to claim 1, Armstrong is directed to a user interface of a communications device which returns a webpage if the communication device is not connected or the communication device is already in use. The web page is generated locally within the communication device. Armstrong indicates that a PPPoE indicator is green when the PPPoE

connection is functioning. This is an OSI layer 3 indicator. See Armstrong, Summary, and FIG. 6. The cited portions of Armstrong fail to disclose or suggest that a status of an upper-layer communication indicator indicates an Open Systems Interconnection (OSI) layer 4 or above communication status, as in claim 1.

Therefore, the cited portions of the above-cited references, individually or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest the specific combination of claim 1. Hence, claim 1 is allowable. Claims 2 and 6-8 are allowable, at least by virtue of their dependence from claim 1.

The cited portions of the above-cited references do not disclose or suggest the specific combination of claim 9. For example, the cited portions of the above-cited references, separately or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest a first status indicator configured for visual inspection by an end-user to communicate at least an OSI layer 4 or above communication status.

In contrast to claim 9, paragraph [1035] discloses that higher-level communications are often terminated internally to the transceiver, without indicating to the end-user if the communications were successful or not. In such systems, determining communications status may require opening a web browser on a connected computer, logging in to the transceiver, and viewing communication status information via a graphical user interface (GUI). The indicator is not displayed at the transceiver, but through a GUI of the connected computer. Further, paragraph [1035] does not disclose or suggest a first status indicator configured for visual inspection by an end-user to communicate at least an OSI layer 4 or above communication status.

In further contrast to claim 9, Armstrong is directed to a user interface of a communications device which returns a webpage if the communication device is not connected or the communication device is already in use. The web page is generated locally within the communication device. Armstrong indicates that a PPPoE indicator is green when the PPPoE connection is functioning. This is an OSI layer 3 indicator. See Armstrong, Summary, and FIG. 6. The cited portions of Armstrong fail to disclose or suggest a first status indicator configured for visual inspection by an end-user to communicate at least an Open Systems Interconnection (OSI) layer 4 or above communication status.

Therefore, the cited portions of the above-cited references, individually or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest the specific combination of claim 9. Hence, claim 9 is allowable. Claims 11-15 are allowable, at least by virtue of their dependence from claim 9.

The cited portions of the above-cited references fail to disclose or suggest the specific combination of claim 16. For example, the cited portions of the above-cited references, separately or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest that a status of a visual upper-layer communication indicator indicates an OSI layer 4 or above communication status, as in claim 16.

In contrast to claim 16, paragraph [1035] discloses that higher-level communications are often terminated internally to the transceiver, without indicating to the end-user if the communications were successful or not. In such systems, determining communications status may require opening a web browser on a connected computer, logging in to the transceiver, and viewing communication status information via a graphical user interface (GUI). The indicator is not displayed at the transceiver, but through a GUI of the connected computer. Further, paragraph [1035] does not disclose or suggest that a status of a visual upper-layer communication indicator indicates an OSI layer 4 or above communication status.

In further contrast to claim 16, Armstrong is directed to a user interface of a communications device which returns a webpage if the communication device is not connected or the communication device is already in use. The web page is generated locally within the communication device. Armstrong indicates that a PPPoE indicator is green when the PPPoE connection is functioning. This is an OSI layer 3 indicator. See Armstrong, Summary, and FIG. 6. The cited portions of Armstrong fail to disclose or suggest that a status of a visual upper-layer communication indicator indicates an OSI layer 4 or above communication status.

Therefore, the cited portions of the above-cited references, individually or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest the specific combination of claim 16. Hence, claim 16 is allowable. Claim 19 is allowable, at least by virtue of its dependence from claim 16.

Claim 5

The Office has rejected claim 5, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over AAPA, in view of Armstrong, and in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,981,039 ("Cerami"). Claim 5 is cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, rendering this rejection moot.

Claims 20-25 are Allowable

Claims 20-25 are allowable, at least by virtue of their dependence from claim 1. In addition, these claims recite additional elements not disclosed or suggested by the cited portions of the above-cited references. For example, the cited portions of the above-cited references fail to disclose or suggest that the OSI layer 4 or above communication status includes a security

function status, a name recognition function status, a login function status, an administration function status, an encryption function status, or a file formatting function status, as in claims 20-25. For at least these additional reasons, claims 20-25 are allowable.

CONCLUSION

Applicants have pointed out specific features of the claims not disclosed, suggested, or rendered obvious by the cited portions of the references applied in the Office Action. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of each of the objections and rejections, as well as an indication of the allowability of each of the pending claims.

Any changes to the claims in this response, which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the cited art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below if such a call would in any way facilitate allowance of this application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees, which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number 50-2469.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

Jeffrey G. Toler, Reg. No. 38,342
Attorney for Applicants
Toler Law Group, Intellectual Properties
8500 Bluffstone Cove, Suite A201
Austin, Texas 78759
(512) 327-5515 (phone)
(512) 327-5575 (fax)